

Libel Blatt



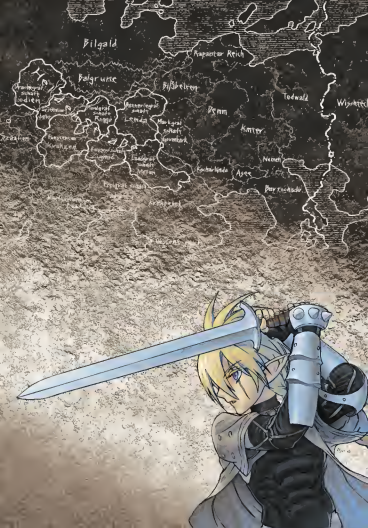
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

ETOROU SHIONO











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Szaalenden,
the land of
plenty.

...has begun
to crumble
at the hands
of wicked
rebels from
the border
lands.

The
peace once
brought
about by
the "Seven
Heroes"
of yore...

However...

!!GAAAG

Kap.1:
Schwarzes Schwert
(Black Sword)

...heralds
the
begin-
ning...

...of an
age of
new
heroes...

...One
swing
of this
blade...





ALL I
SAW WAS
A GREAT
BLACK
SWORD.

AND ONE
OF OUR
MEN, WITH
HIS DYING
WORDS,
DESCRIBED
"A MAN WITH
A SCAR
OVER ONE
EYE".....

WE
WERE
UNABLE
GET A
GOOD
LOOK AT
HIM...

HIS
SPEED
WAS
UNREAL.
FRIGHT-
ENING,
EVEN.....

AHH!
AHH!



THE
YOUNG
GIRLS?

AFTER
FLEEING
FROM A
MAN WHO
KILLED ONE
HUNDRED OF
MY SOL-
DIERS...

WHERE
IS THE
GOLD?

AHH
AHH
AHH



WELL?

WHERE
ARE
THE
CASKS
OF
WINE?

WHAT
??



M-MY
LORD,
I...

...YOU,
THE SOLE
SURVIVOR,
HAD THE
NERVE TO
RETURN
EMPTY-
HANDED?







YOU! NOT
ANOTHER
STEP!



THIS
BRAT'S
EVEN GOT
HIMSELF A
SWORD.

AND
LOOK AT
THAT FANCY
GETUP.
DID YOUR
MOMMY
DRESS
YOU, KID?

S-S.
SORRY,
YOU GOT
THE
WRONG
GUY!
SEE YAI!



N...
...NICE
WEATHER
WE'RE
HAVING,
ISN'T
IT.....?



HEY,
LET ME
SEE
YOUR
FACE.



YES...
QUITE
RIGHT.

NONE
OF THESE
BASTARDS
COULD
HAVE DONE
THAT.

ONE MAN
STRONG
ENOUGH TO
DEFEAT ONE
HUNDRED?



...I'VE
KILLED EVERY
SUSPICIOUS
MAN TRAVEL-
ING THE MAIN
ROAD, BUT.....

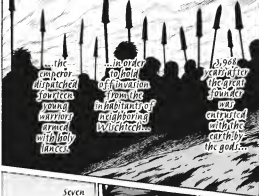
ONE
AFTER
THE
OTHER
...











...the
emperor
dispatched
fourteen
young
warriors
armed
with holy
lances.

...in order
to hold
off invasion
from the
inhabitants of
neighboring
Wischtech.

3,968
years after
the great
founder
was
entrusted
with the
earth by
the gods...

There was
a time
when fierce
battles were
waged day
and night
against the
Land of
Shadows,
Wischtech.

Seven
mighty
warriors
remained.

Armed with
naught but the
lances and
their own
strength, they
brought peace to
Szalenden.

The people
heralded
them as the
"Seven
Heroes."



Four joined
with the
enemy and
were slain for
their betrayal.
They were
branded the
"Traitorous
Lances."

Three
lost their
lives on
the journey
and came
to be known
as the
"Exalted
Ones Who
Did Not
Return."

Twenty
years have
passed—



...began raising
an army of
mountain
bandits in the
hills surrounding
the border
margravate—
markgrafschaft—
of Gornbark.

In 3992 A.D.
(Anno Donatio),
the Traitorous
Lancers, thought
to have been
slain after their
betrayal of the
Emperor...



They rape
and pillage,
causing no
small amount
of grief for
the people.

They are
called "The
Black Wing
Army"
after their
banner.



...as well
as to the
imperial
capital,
Szarlion...

Seeking aid,
the feudal
lords of these
lands dispatched
envoys to the
Road of Heroes—
Heldenstrasse—
the territories
ruled by the
Seven Heroes...



And
slain.



...But every
one of
them was
captured.



...have
fallen
into
despair.

The
people
of the
border-
lands...



AND
WHERE
MIGHT
THEY BE
OFF TO SO
EARLY THIS
MORNING
.....?

HEH
HEH...



WE'VE
NO
TIME
TO
WASTE
...



HEH-
HEH-HEH...
SO THE
SEVEN
HEROES
ARE ALSO
ON THE
MOVE...

...I CAN
SEE...THE
CREST...
OF...
MARGUIS...
GLENN...



...THEY
SHOULD
BE...



CAN
YOU
SEE
THEM?

THE
FOG...
IS...
THICK...
BUT...



*Ekstema Village,
Margravate
of Gormbark*





YES,
YOU MUST
KNOW IT
WELL.
ELENEI
IS THE
ONE WHO
PLUCKED
THE BOY
FROM THE
RIVER,
AFTER ALL.

THIS IS
THE ROAD
TO ELENEI'S
HOUSE,
ISN'T IT?



CHIEF...
HOW LONG
SINCE THE
BOY WITH THE
SCAR OVER
HIS EYE
APPEARED?



Y-YOU
MEAN, HE'S
SLEEPING
IN ELENEI'S
HOUSE!?

SHE
AND HER
BROTHER
ARE CARING
FOR HIM.

FOUR
OR FIVE
DAYS, I'D
SAY.



I-I'M
NOT—

CALM
DOWN, YELN.
IT'S PETTY
TO BE
ENVOUS OF
A WOUNDED
MAN.



ELENEI
AND THE
BOY.



AH,
AND HERE
THEY ARE.





Y'KNOW,
AT
FIRST...

...WE WERE
SURE YOU
WERE WITH
THE BLACK
WINGS.



YES,
YOU TWO
HAVE BEEN
INCREDIBLY
KIND TO
ME...

I OWE
MY RE-
COVERY
TO YOU.



BACK
WHEN SIS
FIRST
FOUND
YOU...

...YOU
WERE TOO
WEAK TO
LIFT A
FINGER...



GET BACK
TO THE
SHEEP!!!

I-I'M
GOIN',
SIS, I'M
GOIN'!!!



KROHN!!

IN OUR
VILLAGE, A MAN
WHO SHARES A
WOMAN'S BOWL
IS S'POSED TO
TAKE HER TO BED.
OR ELSE HE'S A
COWARD.



OH YEAH!
LAST NIGHT
YOU ATE
PORRIDGE
OUT OF
SIS'S BOWL,
DIDN'T
YOU?

HUH?

YES...



KOINZELL... LIM...



ONCE I'M DONE WORKIN', I GOTTA SHOW YOU SOMEPLACE COOL, KOINZELL!









BISSBELTEN

DEMM

KM

Markgraf Schafe

GORMBARK

Kurama

Markgraf Schafe
MOLLAN

KSCHARLUNDO

BUT
SEVERAL
DAYS AGO,
WE LEARNED
THAT AN
INVADING
FORCE ONE-
HUNDRED
STRONG WAS
MASSACRED
IN THE
SOUTH.

THE
MARGRAVE
OF GORMBARK
IS AT A SEVERE
DISADVANTAGE
AT PRESENT.
WE ARE
SURROUNDED
BY THE BLACK
WING ARMY,
WHICH HAS
ALREADY
ACQUIRED THE
NEIGHBORING
LANDS OF
DEMM AND
KSCHARLUNDO.

THE HEAD-
WATERS OF
THE RIVER
YOU FLOATED
DOWN ARE
LOCATED IN
THAT AREA.

SINCE THAT
DAY, THE BLACK
WING ARMY HAS
BEEN SEARCHING
FOR A MAN WITH
A SCAR OVER
ONE EYE!

ALMOST
ALL WERE
SLAIN BY
THE SAME
BLADE!

OH!?

WHAT
A COIN-
CIDENCE,
HUH?

A SWORD
WIELDED
BY SOME-
ONE WITH
INCREDIBLE
SKILL.

...WOW.

THAT'S
AMAZ-
ING.



...WE
NEED
THE
POWER
TO
HOLD
THEM
BACK!!

IF WE
ARE TO
HAVE ANY
HOPE OF
PROTECTING
THOSE WHO
LIVE IN THE
BORDER-
LANDS...



DON'T
DENY
IT!!

THE
MARGRAVE
REFUSES TO
ACT, SO WE
ARE IN DIRE
NEED OF A
WARRIOR
WITH YOUR
STRENGTH!!



DA
HI!

HOW
DARE
YOU
!!?



NORMALLY
WE WOULD
NEVER STOOP
TO ASKING
ONE OF
YOUR KIND...
SOME FILTHY
MIXED-RACE
MUTT...!!

YOU
DON'T
GET
IT, DO
YOU!!?

YELN
!!



...I'M
SORRY
FOR
YOUR
TROU-
BLES...
...BUT
I'VE GOT
MY OWN
REASONS
FOR
TRAVELING...

I DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO GET
TANGLED
UP IN SOME
PRIVATE
ARMY'S
MESS.





MOST
LIKELY...

OUR SCOUT
REPORTED
SEEING THAT
LORD MAKE
CONTACT WITH
THE MAN WE'RE
AFTER.

COULD HE
BE IN THIS
VILLAGE...?



YES,
SIR.

MY
CLIDGEL!
NOW!!



WHAAH
!?



39 39
YOTA "I YOTA
DISCOVERED"



47
YOTA "YOTA
DISCOVERED"



HN
HEH
HEH
...

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHO
THIS
FOOL
IS...
...BUT
THE
GREAT
LORD
KOFER
WILL
SHORTLY
READ
HIM
HIS
LAST
RITES!!



AGAAAH!!!

HOW
DARE YOU
WOUND MY
ZEIRAS!!!!?



EE!
I-IM...
I'M SO
SORRY...

YOU
FOOL...



DON'T
GET
CARE-
LESS
NOW,
MEN!!

MOVE
OUT!!



WHOA!

SHAM
OLAND



...IT WAS
CARVED BY ONE
OF THE SEVEN
HEROES' HOLY
SPEARS!



HEE-HEE-
HEE! WELL,
YOU SEE,
KÖINZELL...

...WHAT
IS IT?



THIS
IS IT,
KÖIN-
ZELL!



IT MUST'VE
BEEN DIVINE
PROTECTION
FROM THE SEVEN
HEROES THAT
BROUGHT YOU
HERE, KÖINZELL...

ISN'T
THAT
AMAZ-
ING!?



IT
HAPPENED
TWENTY
YEARS AGO
WHEN THE
HEROES
FOUGHT A
MONSTER
HERE.



KÖINZELL?

EVEN
NOW IT
GLOWS A
LITTLE AT
NIGHT.



IT'S JUST THAT...







WHAT'S
THE
MATTER!!?
SHOW
YOURSELF,
MR. EYE-
SCAR!!



OR
ARE
YOU TOO
FRIGHT-
ENED!?

THE
GREAT
LORD
KFER OF
THE TRAI-
TOROUS
LANCES
HAS COME
FOR YOU!!



KFER
!!

...!

















A
SCARRED
LEFT
EYE...
IT'S HIM
...!!

THE KID
FROM
BEFORE
...!!?



MY
ZEIRA-
AAS!!!

AH...
AH...

AAA-
AAAA-
AAAA-
AAH!!





YOU'RE
ALL
IN MY
WAY!!



THIS
IS...

...THE
BLACK
BLADE
!!!

EEEEH !!!





IN TRUTH,
I HAVEN'T
RECOVERED
ENOUGH TO USE
THESE SWORDS
PROPERLY...

THANK
GOODNESS
YOUR MEN
WERE SO
WEAK.....

...BUT I'M
MORE THAN
A MATCH FOR
A FIGHTER OF
YOUR
STRENGTH.



PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.

I HEAR
YOU'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR ME.



WHY
ARE YOU
AFTER
ME!?

YOU...
JUST
WHO
ARE
YOU!?



WHAT
ODD
THINGS
TO ASK
...

"WHY"?

"WHO"?





WH-WH-
WHAT...?

YOU.....
YOU'RE...



...BUT
NOW LET'S
PUT AN
END TO
THIS LITTLE
GAME
OF PRE-
TEND...

!!

YOU'VE
HAD YOUR
FUN...



**THE OTHER
THREE, SO
ARROGANTLY
FLYING THAT
PATHETIC
CREST.....**

...WILL
BE
JOINING
YOU
SHORT-
LY!!

YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY...

**YOU'LL
HAVE
OPPORTU-
NITY TO
TRY THAT
TRICK
AGAIN
SOON
ENOUGH
!!!**

**D...
DON'T
GET
COCKY
!!!**

**WE TRAI-
TOROUS
LANCES
RETURNED
FROM
HELL
ITSELF
!!!**







PLEASE

~~~~~

DON'T

~~~~~





LORD
ASCHERIIT
WILL HEAR
ABOUT
THIS—
YOUR DAYS
ARE NUM-
BERED...!

WE'LL
BE TAKING
OUR LEAVE
NOW....!!



BLE-
NII!!



**HYA
HA!**

DON'T
MAKE A
MOVE!!

NOT
ONE
MOVE...



**HYA
BA
!!?**



**HYA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!!**





THE
KSCHAR-
LUNDI-
/NS...

LOOK AT
THEM...

*Peltetrundo Region,
South Gormbark*

CAN
WE
TRUST
THEM?

IF
ONLY THE
MARSHAVE
HAD ACTED,
WE'D HAVE
NO NEED OF
THEM...

THAT WE
HAVE TO
RELY ON
THESE
SAVAGES'
HELP IS A
DISGRACE...

LEAVE
THEM
BE!!

LORD
AMT,
SHOULD
WE...?

HEY,
LOOK
!!
THAT'S
THE
BLACK
WING
ARMY'S
...

THAT'S
WHY
WE MUST
WIN THIS
BATTLE
AT ANY
COST!...

IF WE
KILL OFF
THE LAST
REM-
NANTS
OF
KFER'S
MEN...
...AND
JOIN OUR
STRENGTH
TO THE
"WIELDER OF
THE BLACK
SWORD" WHO
DEFEATED
HIM.....

...THE
REGIONAL
LORDS WILL
HAVE TO
RESPECT
US!!

!?

Kap.2:
Der Blatt der Lüge
(Blade of Lies)

TO BE SO
CONFIDENT
AFTER
MERELY
BESTING
KFER.

HEH
HEH
...

WHAT A
FOOL....







STAND YOUR
GROUND! OR DO
YOU LIKE OUR
REPUTATION AS
COWARDLY
SAVAGES!?

EEEEK!!



G
Y
A
A
H
!!!



WAIT!!
WE CAN'T
RUN!!



...IT'S
NO USE!!
THERE'S
NO WAY
WE CAN
WIN!!





I GUESS
...I'M
JUST NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH

DAMN

COME
BACK
!!



!!!

OH
NEEDLE



WHAT'S
THIS
LIGHT
...?

HMM?



BOOM
BOOMBOOM

STASH





I ONLY GRANT MERCY TO...

E-E-E!



I SURRENDER!!
PLEASE, SPARE MY L-



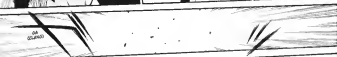
NOW, TURN TO ASH AND SCATTER...



A A A G H!!!



...THE STRONG ...
...AND THE BEAUTIFUL...





HE WAS
QUITE A
HANDFUL
WHEN I
PLUCKED
HIM FROM
THE BATTLE
FIELD.....

HIS
MIND JUST
NEEDED
SOME
TWEAKING
TO MAKE
HIM AN
OBEDIENT
LITTLE
BOY...



KRATTI!?
B-
BROTHER!?



YOUR
BROTHER
HAPPENS
TO BE MY
FAVORITE
AT THE
MOMENT.

HEH
HEH
...

OH-HO...
COME TO
THINK OF
IT, THIS
ONE WAS
ALSO ONCE
A KSCHAR-
LUNDIAN...



SOMEONE... ANYONE...





...WAKE
US
FROM
THIS
NIGHT-
MARE
!!!
.....



...WE'LL BE BRINGING HIM WITH US TO THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL...

ONCE YOU FOUR ARE SAFELY DELIVERED TO THE MARGRAVE'S CASTLE...



!

I CANNOT AGREE TO THAT!!



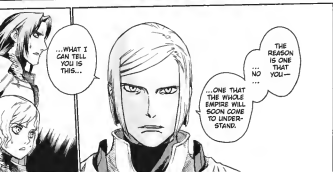
AND YOU ENVOYS OF MARGRIS ARE REALLY GOING TO TAKE HIM FROM US...

...WITHOUT OFFERING SO MUCH AS AN EXPLANATION!!?

.....

...AND AFTER YEARS OF SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF REBELS ALONG OUR BORDERS, WE'VE FINALLY FOUND A TRUMP CARD IN THIS BOY...

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO THE EMPIRE...



...WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THIS...

THE REASON IS ONE THAT YOU—

... NO

...ONE THAT THE WHOLE EMPIRE WILL SOON COME TO UNDERSTAND.



COULD
IT BE...
COULD
THAT
REALLY
BE KOHN-
ZELL
...?!

...WHO
WILL
APPEAR
IN THE
BORDER-
LANDS...

THE ONE
WHO WILL
SAVE THE
KINGDOM
IS A "NEW
HERO"...



SIR ROZEN,
CAN WE
REALLY...

...DI-
VULGE
SO
MUCH
...?

SO WE BE-
LIEVE
...



THEY
INEVITABLY
WILL BE
DRAGGED
INTO THE
BATTLE
TOO.

IT
HARDLY
MATTERS.



ABOUT
A
MONTH
AGO...

...MORDEN-
BORGEN'S
ASTROLOGER
RELAYED A
WARNING
PROPHECY
TO THE
EMPEROR
AND THE
SEVEN
HEROES.

HE
PRO-
CLAIMED

...THAT
THESE
TROUBLES
AT THE
BORDER
WILL SOON
AFFECT
THE
ENTIRE
EMPIRE...

...AND
THAT THEY
HERALD
A FAR
GREATER
CALAMITY.













HE'S
JUST A
SHAME-
LESS
KSHAR-
LUNDO!!

LET'S
TOSS THIS
ONE'S
HEAD
DOWN TO
KSHAR-
LUNDO...

WE'LL
SHOW
THEM
WHAT
HAPPENS
TO TRAI-
TOROUS
DOGS!!



THEY'RE
BARBARIC!
NO SENSE
OF LAW OR
HONOR!



AND NOW
IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'VE
SUCCEEDED
IN BEING THE
LAPDOGS OF
THE BLACK
WING
ARMY!



KÖIN-
ZELL!!

.....A
FINE
RULER
YOU'D
MAKE



A
STUB-
BORN
CHILD.

.....

YOU MUST HAVE
GOTTEN THOSE
THUNDER CHARMS
FROM GUSTAV,
WHO COMMANDS
THE POWER OF
LIGHTNING...

WHAT
ORDERS
DID SHE
GIVE
YOU?



YOU
BAS-
TARD
...!

.....



WHAT
...!!?

...IN A FEW
DAYS' TIME,
SHE AND THAT
SINISTER FLYING
FORTRESS
WILL BURN.

BE-
CAUSE
...

WELL,
IT MAT-
TERS
LITTLE.



...ALL
SEIZED FROM
HISCHTECH
IN THE GREAT
HARD TWENTY
YEARS AGO.

WITH THOSE
WEAPONS
POWER, WE
CAN CONTROL
THIS ENTIRE
REGION.

WITHIN THE
CASTLE WALLS
LIES A MASSIVE
BATTERY OF
MAGIC-BASED
ARTILLERY...



THIS
AIR-
SHIP...
...IS
HEADING
STRAIGHT
FOR THE
MAR-
GRAVE'S
CASTLE.



FACING
A FIERY
ASSAULT
FROM THOSE
WEAPONS,
THAT FLYING
FORTRESS
WILL—

NO,
DON'T!!
MY
BROTHER
IS UP
THERE...



AND
WITH THE
ENVOYS OF
MARQUIS
GLENN
BACKING
US...

...EVEN
OUR
RETICENT
MARGRAVE
WILL BE
MOVED TO
ACTION.



!!



ARE YOU
REALLY NO
BETTER THAN
THEM.....?



!
WHAT A
FOOL!

A SINGLE
KESCHAR-
LUNDIAN
LIFE ISN'T
WORTH
GIVING
UP THIS
OPPORTU-
NITY...



YOU
WON'T
GET
AWAY!!



POW!!



YOU
WOULD
STAND
IN MY
WAY!!?



!!



IF YOU
SHARE
THE
OPINION
OF YOUR
OPPO-
NENTS...

...AND
THINK
NOTHING
OF
BUILDING
YOUR OWN
SUCCESSIONS
ON THE
SACRIFICES
OF
OTHERS...

IF
SUCH AN
ACTION
TRULY
DOESN'T
TROUBLE
YOU...

...THEN
I'LL STRIKE
YOU DOWN
MYSELF
THIS
INSTANT!

TGH...



YOU AGAIN!!

WHOA!!

HANG ON!!



LEAVING SO SOON?

!?



SWAH!!



TAKE IT EASY...

LET'S TALK...



OW!

I SAVED YOU!! STOP KICKING ME!

WAAAAH!!



!!

...YOU'RE A GIRL...



!

YOU...



I WAS
SO SURE
YOU
WERE A
BOY.



...WELL...
I'LL GLADLY
RETURN YOUR
BROTHER...



...BUT
FIRST



WHILE
FIGHTING
GOSSTAV'S
FLYING
DRAGON
LEGION...

...I
ENCOUN-
TERED MY
BROTHER,
KRAFT.
WE WERE
SEPA-
RATED IN
BATTLE
A MONTH
AGO...

WELL,
ISN'T
THAT A
SHAME



I'M THE
DAUGHTER
OF KESCHER-
LUNDY'S
CHIEFTAIN...
THE THIRD
PRIN-
CESS...



WHILE
I'VE
BEEN
DOING
EVERY-
THING I
CAN TO
FREE MY
BROTHER...

...OUR
FORCES
HAVE
BEEN
CRUM-
BLING.

THEY'RE
ALL
DYING!!

THAT'S
WHY, NO
MATTER
WHAT...
I HAVE TO
GET HIM
BACK...!!



SO
THAT'S
WHY YOU
CAME
TO KILL
ME.

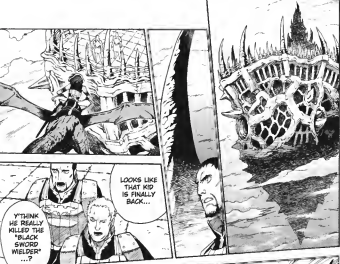
...BUT
DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
SHE'LL
RETURN
YOUR
BROTHER
TO YOU...?



I
DON'T
KNOW!

I DON'T
KNOW...
BUT...
BUT...









WHO
IS THIS
KID!??

!!



AND
AFTER
THAT...

...GÜS-
STAV
!!!

I'M
LOOKING
FOR A
YOUNG
KSCHAR-
LUNDIAN...



L-LADY
GÜS-
STAV
...!!

MY, MY...
WHAT'S
ALL THE
COMMO-
TION?

!!

COULD...
THIS BE THE
BOY WHO
KILLED LORD
KFER.....?

NO
WAY!

!!!







DON'T
BE
SCARED
NOW...

THE
TRUTH
IS...
I HATE
CON-
FLICT...



LET'S
NOT
FIGHT
...



THIS IS
MUCH
BETTER
ANYWAY.

DON'T
YOU
THINK?



THAT
CHILD
MAY HAVE
FAILED
TO KILL
YOU...

...BUT
I'M
ACTUALLY
GLAD
OF IT.

AT
FIRST I
THOUGHT
YOU AN
EXPEN-
DABLE
PLAYER
...

...BUT
INSTEAD
IT TURNS
OUT THE
"BLACK
SWORD
WIELDER" IS
A PRETTY
LITTLE
BOY.



...WHEN IT
COMES TO
HUMAN-
BEAST
HYBRIDS...

OH...

I KNOW
PLENTY
...



HOW
CAN YOU
KNOW
THAT?



BECAUSE
TODAY...

...THE
MOONLIGHT
IS OBSCURED
BY CLOUDS,
BLOCKING
YOUR
POWER...

!!

SO WHY
NOT
...
... HAVE
SOME
FUN
WITH
ME?



.....

YOU CAN
ENJOY ME
LIKE THIS
FOREVER...



BUT
YOU'RE
A RARE
ONE...

YOUR OTHER
HALF HAS
FUSED SO
SEAMLESSLY
WITH THE
HOCH ELFE,
THE HIGH
ELVES WHO
LIVE BY THE
LIGHT OF THE
MOONS.



WE
TRAITOROUS
LANCES ARE
MUCH THE
SAME, YOU
SEE.....

WE'VE
ACCEPTED
THE
POWERS OF DARK-
NESS
WITHIN US.
SO,
UNLIKE
THE SEVEN
HEROES,
WE GROW
NEITHER
OLD NOR
UGLY...



YOU
WANTED
THE
KSCHAR-
LUNDIAN
BOY, NO?

AH...
YES...

JUST
LOOK
OVER
THERE...

I'VE TRIED
TIME AND
TIME AGAIN
TO PRODUCE
A CHILD SUCH
AS YOU.....

...BUT
WITH ONLY
LOW-CLASS
FAIRIES
TO WORK
WITH, ALL
ATTEMPTS
HAVE
ENDED IN
FAILURE...

!!



WHAT'S
THIS ALL
OF A
SUDDEN
...?

ANH!

BEFORE
LONG, I'LL
SHOW MY
LOVE AND
BEGIN TO
ADD TO
YOU AS
WELL...

NH!

YOU...
YOUR
TECH-
NIQUE...

AS IT
HAP-
PENS...

!

ISN'T
HE
PRE-
CIOUS?

...HE'S
SITTING
RIGHT
OVER
THERE...

!!







YOU HAVE
NO HOPE
OF WINNING
WITHOUT
YOUR
ELVISH
POWERS!



ONE
SWORD IS
PLENTY!

AGAINST
YOU.....?



!!



Y...

YOU...



**YOU
IMPU-
DENT
LITTLE
BRAT
!!!**



**SHE'S
HUGE!!**











LOOK!!
IT'S
KÖINZELL!
HE'S...!!



THERE'S
ONLY BEEN
ONE MAN IN
THIS AGE
WITH THAT
LEVEL OF
MASTERY...

THOSE
MOVE-
MENTS...

...THE
BLATTA
MONSTER
THOUGHT
TO HAVE
DIED
TWENTY
YEARS
AGO...



I KNOW
THAT
FIGHTING
STYLE...!



FIGHTING
IN THE
AIR LIKE
THAT...!!

AMAZ-
ING!



FREE!
LET'S
GET
OUTTA
HERE!

IT'S
NO
USE!!

SHE'S
GOING TO
RELEASE
ALL HER
MAGIC AT
ONCE!

THIS
IS LADY
GUSTAV'S
"INFINITE
THUNDER"
...



NOW
DIIIIIE
!!!



NNNN-
RRRA-
AAAA-
AARH
!!!



THE LEADER
OF THE
TRAITOROUS
VANCES...

...ASCHERIT
HIMSELF...!!!



SHE'S
GOING TO
DESTROY
EVERY-
THING
WITHIN
REACH!!!

...AN
ENIGMA...



THE
SHOCK
WAVE
BLEW
AWAY
THE
CLOUDS
!!!

!!!





TH...



SLEEP
WELL,
MY
LADY.

YOUR
GAME OF
PRETEND
IS OVER.



GNA
AA
AA
H!

...WHAT
KILLED
KFER...

...THIS
IS...













...YOU'LL
SOON BE
KING OF
THESE
LANDS.

AS LONG
AS YOU
FOLLOW MY
INTRUC-
TIONS...



FIRST
KFER
NOW
GUS-
STAV...

CARE TO
EXPLAIN
THIS,
ASCHERITT?

NO
NEED TO
FRET...

...MAR-
GRAVE.



ALL
THAT
REMAINS

...IS TO
STAMP
OUT A FEW
LINGERING
PESTS.....



THE
PEOPLE
WERE
TIRED OF
FIGHT-
ING...

THE
LAND WAS
RAVAGED
BY THE
WAR WITH
WISCHTECH.



TWENTY
YEARS
AGO...

...THIS
WHOLE
REALM
WAS A
BATTLE-
FIELD.

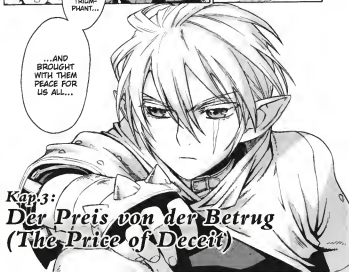


...THE
SEVEN
HEROES
RETURNED
FROM THEIR
NOBLE
MISSION,
TRIUM-
PHANT...

...BUT
THEN...



...AND
BROUGHT
WITH THEM
PEACE FOR
US ALL...

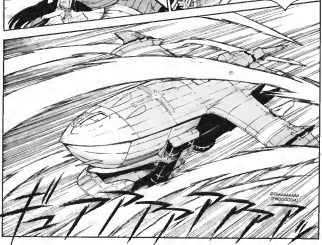


Kap.3:
Der Preis von der Betrug
(The Price of Deceit)











TURAN
CORADO



IT
CAN'T
BE!

COULD THE
CASTLE
HAVE
FALLEN
INTO THE
ENEMY'S
HANDS...?



A...
A WHOLE
MOUNTAIN—
DESTROYED
!!?

WHAT
INCRED-
IBLE
POWER
...!!



IS THE
MARGRAVE
SAFE!?

THE
MAR-
GRAVE
...



THEY'VE
EVADED
EVERY
SINGLE
SHOT!

THAT
DAMN
SHIP!!



RODOLFO
FALCONI



FULL
SPEED
AHEAD.



NO...

?



WE
MUST
RETREAT
FOR
NOW...

JUST ONE
DIRECT
HIT WOULD
HAVE
FINISHED
US.



WE
HAVE TO
RECHARGE
ALL TWELVE
AT ONCE,
SO WE NEED
MORE
TIME.....

WELL,
HURRY
UP!!

WHAT?
?

THE
SECOND
VOLLEY
ISN'T
READY?!



TAKE A
GOOD
LOOK!!

THE NEXT
VOLLEY
WILL
BRING
THEM
DOWN—

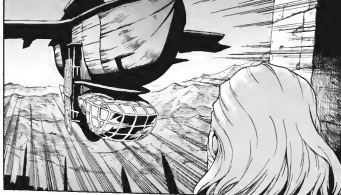
EEP!!
.....



SHUT
YOUR
MOUTH,
KRETEL.



IT
SOUNDS AS
THOUGH YOU
SHOULD NOT
HAVE FIRED
THEM ALL
TOGETHER,
MY LORD
MARGRAVE.





YOU'RE
GOING
ALONE!?

THAT'S
INSANE!



DON'T
WORRY.

I'M
USED
TO
THIS.



I'LL
DESTROY
THE AR-
TILLERY.

ONCE
I DROP,
BRING UP
THE SHIP
AND
RETREAT!



WHAT
THE
...?

SOME
KID
JUST
...!!



TO
DOWN









PRESSING
EVER
ONWARD
AS HE
MOWS DOWN
ENEMIES
LEFT AND
RIGHT.....

DIVING IN
THROUGH
THE ROAR
OF THOSE
FEARSOME
WISCHTECH
WEAPONS.



LOOK
AT
HIM...



JUST AS WE
INSPIRING
ASTHEY
WERE SAID
TO BE.....!!

JUST LIKE IN
THE LEGENDS
OF THE SEVEN
HEROES.....



I NO
LONGER
DOUBT
IT...

...WE'RE
WITNESS-
ING THE
BIRTH OF
A NEW
HERO....!!





YOU'VE ONLY JUST MANAGED TO CONVINCE ME WITH YOUR SWEET-SOUNDING PROMISES

LISTEN, YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS, ASCHERIT?

SO THAT'S ...



THEY'LL RAIN DOWN THEIR ANGER UPON THE CASTLE, DEFENSELESS NOW WITHOUT ITS WALLS OR WEAPONS!!

...BUT IF THIS GETS OUT, THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND WILL KNOW I'VE AGREED TO SUPPORT YOUR ARMY.....

...THE "MAN OF THE BLACK SWORD" ...



WE'VE USED SIMILAR TACTICS IN THE PAST.

LINE UP TWENTY OR THIRTY OF THEM AND CLAIM THEY WERE REBEL SYMPATHIZERS.

THAT SHOULD SUBDUCE THE REST.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE PEASANTS, JUST DISPLAY A FEW OF THEIR HEADS ON PIKES.



MY MAGICS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AS A LAST RESORT...

AND WHY SHOULDN'T YOURS BE ONE OF THOSE SKEWERED HEADS?

IT'S REALLY A SIMPLE SOLUTION.

OUR OPTIONS ARE NOT SPENT.

NO NEED TO RAISE YOUR VOICE SO.



WITH
YOUR PERMIS-
SION...

HEH
HEH
...



ENOUGH
OF YOUR
FINE
WORDS.
THEN! GET
ON WITH
IT!!



ARRRRGH!!
GAH!!?

AH...
GNH...



GA
AA
AA
AH



KREN...
TEL...

...
YOU
...

...
BAS
...















...ALLOW
ME TO
SHOW YOU
HOW WE DO
BATTLE.

IN THE NAME
OF MARGUIS
GLENN
AND THE
ORDER OF
THE SEVEN
LANCES...



CAN WE
REALLY
BEAT IT
ON OUR
OWN?

WE
WILL
SOME-
HOW.



IS THIS
REALLY THE
TIME FOR
YOU TO BE
STANDING
IDLY BY...?

IT'S IN
YOUR BEST
INTEREST TO
PANIC AND
START
RUNNING.

ASCHERIT!



...AND
YOU'VE SET
US BACK TO
ZERO...!!

FOR TWENTY
YEARS WE'VE
PLOTED OUR
REVENGE ON
THE SEVEN
HEROES...

...YOU'VE
COME
AT LAST,
"MAN
OF THE
BLACK
SWORD."



HYEH
HEH
...

THAT'S
RICH...





...EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S
ALREADY
TOO
LATE!!

WELL,
WHAT WILL
YOU DO?
BEG FOR
YOUR LIFE?
THAT WOULD
BE SWEET
MUSIC TO
MY EARS...



AM I
WRONG
?



YOU
WILL
LOSE
HERE.

YOU DON'T
HAVE THE
POWER TO
SUMMON
THOSE
BLACK
SWORDS
OF
YOURS.



KRENTZ,
ANOTH-
ER!!



JUST A
SECOND!!



RAA
AA
H!!



SHOTO
CECILLIA





YOU
GREAT
CAP!!

BLAST!!
HURRY
NOW
AND
FINISH
THEM
OFF!!



THEY'VE
PIERCED
NEARLY
HALF
OF THE
CURSE
NODES.

I'M
LOSING
CON-
TROL
...!!

THESE
PEOPLE...
THEY KNOW
PRECISELY
HOW TO
FIGHT
HIM...!!



HA-HA-
HA! HE'S
STILL
MOVING
...!

HE'S NOT
FINISHED
YET!!



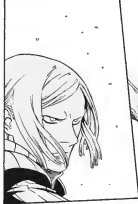
OHH...
OHH...



SIR
ROZEN
!!

U
R
A
A
A
H
!!











"MAN
OF THE
BLACK
SWORD"
!!

WHAT'S
WRONG
!!?

YOU'LL
NEVER
KILL ME IF
YOU KEEP
GIVING UP
GROUND!



SWINGING
AROUND
THOSE
SWORDS
LIKE A MAD-
MAN...

WHEN
WERE YOU
PLANNING
ON
HITTING
ME?

SPEAK
FOR
YOURSELF...





YOU DON'T
REALIZE I'VE
BEEN TOYING
WITH YOU?

YOU
LITTLE
FOOL...



WHAT'S
THAT
...?

EVEN I...
BARELY
MAN-
AGED...

...TO
RETURN
YOUR
SLASH
JUST
NOW...

TCH...
HEH
HEH...

I SEE...
YOU'RE
NOT COM-
pletely
PATHETIC
...





AFTER
ALL,
YOU'RE
NOT
REALLY
HIM.

IT'S
HARDLY
AB-
SURD...



HOW IS IT
THAT THE
BLOOD
OF BLATT
MEISTER
ASCHERIT

...COULD
HAVE
BEEN
SPILLED
BY A
CHILD'S
BLADE
...?



"ASCHER-
IT."

YOUR
GAME OF
PRETEND
IS OVER.



UR
RA
AA
AH!



THESE
FOUR
BLADES
PORTEND
DESPAIR...

THIS
IS MY
SECRET
TECH-
NIQUE.

**"BLACK
WING."**

I
POSSESS
NOT ONLY
A PAIR OF
UNAS-
SAILABLE
WHITE
SWORDS

...BUT
ALSO
THESE
JET-BLACK
BLADES,
FUELED
BY MY
MAGIC.







SO
DREAD
...





WHA
...!!?

BLACK
...
CLAWS
...!?

!!!







THIS
CAN'T
BE...!!

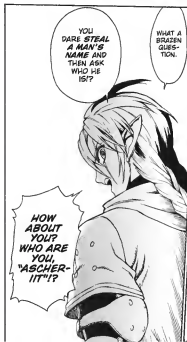
THE
LAST MAN
CAPABLE
OF THAT
WAS.....



IT'S
UNSTOP-
PABLE.

THE TRUE
"BLACK WING"
MANIFESTS A
DARK ILLUSION
WITH MURDER-
OUS INTENT.

THAT YOU
WOULD DARE
USE ITS NAME
FOR YOUR
CLOWNISH
TRICKS IS
INSULTING.



YOU
DARE *STEAL*
A MAN'S
NAME AND
THEN ASK
WHO HE
IS?!

WHAT A
BRAZEN
QUES-
TION.

HOW
ABOUT
YOU?
WHO ARE
YOU,
"ASCHER-
IIT"!?!



NO...
YOU
CAN'T
BE...

...!!

YOU...
WHO
ARE
YOU...?



IT'S
NOT
POSSI-
BLE...!
HOW
COULD
HE BE
HERE...?

... WHO
WHO ...
ARE
YOU
!?





BUT MY
STORY
IS A BIT
DIFFER-
ENT.....

BUT THERE,
THE ONES
YOU CALL
THE "SEVEN
HEROES"...

...TURNED
BACK
OUT OF
FEAR...

THE
REMAINING
ELEVEN
TRAVELED AS
FAR AS THE
ENTRANCE TO
THE FOREST
OF DEATH...

THREE
LOST
THEIR
LIVES
ALONG
THE
WAY.

...RISKED
THEIR LIVES
AND SANITY
TO COMPLETE
THE MISSION
BEFORE
HEADING
HOME-
WARD...

THE
FOUR
WHO
PRESSED ON...
...NOW
DESCRIBED
AS THE
"TRAITOR-
OUS
LANCES"...

BUT
THOSE
SEVEN
LAY IN
WAIT.

BUT IT
GETS
EVEN
MORE
SHOCK-
ING...

!!?

WELL?
DOES
THAT
SURPRISE
YOU?

I WAS
SO SURE
THOSE
FOURTEEN
WOULD BE
COMRADES
TO THE
END.

IT
SUR-
PRISED
ME.



THE
SEVEN,
WANTING
ALL THE
GLORY FOR
THEM-
SELVES...



...CON-
FRONTED
THE FOUR
WITH WHOM
THEY HAD
TRAVELED
AND
FOUGHT...



...AND
SLEW
THEM
IN COLD
BLOOD
!!



I STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER I
ABSORBED
THE FAIRY'S
ESSENCE...

...OR
WHETHER IT
ABSORBED
MINE. IT'S
HARD TO
SAY.

IT TOOK
TEN WHOLE
YEARS JUST
TO ASSUME
A VAGUELY
HUMAN-
LOOKING
FORM...

THIS
BODY IS
HIGHLY
UNSTA-
BLE.....

WITH MY
ARMS AND LEGS
SEVERED AND
MY ENTRAILS
CARPETING THE
FOREST FLOOR,
I SWORE
REVENGE ON
THOSE SEVEN...



AND
NOW, AFTER
TWENTY LONG
YEARS OF
STRUGGLING...

...I COME
TO FIND YOU
IGNORANT
FOOLS,
CALLING
YOURSELVES
THE
"TRAITOROUS
LANCES" AND
WREAKING
HAVOC...

EEK!!

THEY
THREW
MY BODY
INTO THE
VALLEY AS
I CURSED
THEM...



WHEN I
CAME TO, I
DISCOVERED
THAT,
WITHOUT
REALIZING
IT...

...I HAD
BEEN
DEVOURING
A BEAUTIFUL
FOREST-
DWELLING
FAIRY.



DO YOU KNOW
HOW THESE
BORDERLANDS
HAVE SUFFERED
IN YOUR TWENTY-
YEAR ABSENCE?

I NEVER
WOULD HAVE
ASSUMED
YOUR NAME
HAD I KNOWN
YOU STILL
LIVED.....!!

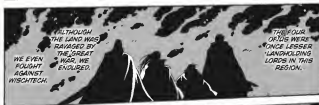


WHY
HAVE YOU
ONLY JUST
RETURNED
!!?



WHY
...?

WHY
NOW
...?



ALTHOUGH
THE LAND WAS
RAVAGED BY
THE GREAT
WAR, WE
ENDURED.
WE EVEN
FOUGHT
AGAINST
WISCHTECH.

THE FOUR
ORDIS WERE
ONCE LESSER
LANDHOLDING
LORDS IN THIS
REGION.



WE FOUGHT
THEM...AS
THE RIGHTFUL
LANDOWNERS.

OR
RATHER...
AS PEOPLE
BORN AND
RAISED
HERE!!

...HOW-
EVER!!



BUT, WHEN
THE SEVEN
THERDES
RETURNED,
HERALDING
THE END OF
THE WAR...

SOLDIERS
FROM THE
CENTRAL
LANDS
REMAINED.
THEY
CLAIMED OUR
TERRITORY,
AND A
TERRIBLE
CIVIL WAR
BEGAN.



IN ORDER TO OPPOSE THE SEVEN HEROES...

IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE TERRITORY...

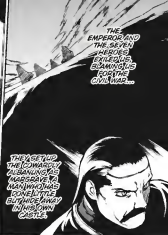
...UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A SPINELESS WEAKLING LIKE ALBANING.

IN THE END, THE PEACE COULDN'T BE KEPT...

WE NEEDED MORE POWER THAN HE POSSESSED.

THE EMPEROR AND THE SEVEN HEROES EXILED US, BLAMING US FOR THE CIVIL WAR...

THEY SET UP THE [COWARDLY] ALBANING AS MARGRAVE, A MAN WHO WAS DONE LITTLE BUT WIDE AWAY IN HIS OWN CASTLE.



...YEAH, I GOT IT.

TOGETHER, WE COULD STAND AGAINST THE SEVEN HEROES...

...UNDER THE TRUE MASCHERIT ...!



YOU'VE SEEN WHAT WE DID.

UNDER THAT NAME AND THE BLACK WING AND SWORD CREST, WE AMASSED GREAT MILITARY MIGHT...

THAT POWER COULD ALL BE YOURS!!



...AND THE REPUTATION OF THE "TRAITOROUS LANCES" ...

...WE NEEDED WISCH-TECH'S MAGIC...



YOU
WILL
PAY THE
PRICE
FOR
THAT.



YOU
PEOPLE
...
YOU'VE
TAKEN OUR
NAMES, NAMES
ALREADY
BESMIRCHED
BY THE SEVEN
HEROES...

BUT I
HAVE TO
REFUSE.

...AND
HEAPED
FURTHER
DISGRACE
UPON US
WITH YOUR
ANTICS...





KOIN-
ZELL....



...
KOIN-
ZELL.

I DO
NOT WISH
TO KILL
YOU.....



WELL, WHAT
NOW??
WHAT
WILL
YOU DO,
KNIGHT
OF
GLEN??

DO YOU
BELIEVE
WHAT
YOU'VE
HEARD?

OR...
WILL
YOU
FINISH
ME
OFF?



I SUP-
POSE
YOU
HEARD
EVERY-
THING
...?







...THEN I
CANNOT
STAND
DOWN
HERE.

IF YOU
INSIST
ON YOUR
CRUSADE
AGAINST
THE SEVEN
HEROES...



YOU'RE
A TRUE
AND
HONEST
MAN.

I'D
RATHER
NOT
HURT
YOU...IF
I DON'T
HAVE TO.

ROZEN...
GIVE UP
NOW...



PROTECTING
THAT
PRECIOUS
BALANCE IS
MY SWORN
DUTY.

...THE PEOPLE
OF THIS EMPIRE
CAN LIVE WITH
PEACE OF MIND
ONLY THANKS
TO THE SEVEN
HEROES...

EVEN IF,
AS YOU SAY,
THIS HAS
ALL BEEN A
MASSIVE
DECEPTION...



GLENN
HARDLY
DESERVES
SUCH A
VALIANT
RETAINER.

AGAIN,
WELL
SAID...
BUT IT
REALLY
IS A
SHAME.











NOT
NOW,
SCHEM-
LEI!!

SIR
ROZEN,
WHY WERE
YOU AND
KONZELL
...?



KONZELL
MUST BE
STOPPED...

WE MAKE
FOR LAND-
GRAVE
SCHEM-
WOLECH'S
CASTLE!



SO YOU'VE
INSTRUCTED
YOUR MEN
TO LOOK
INTO THIS
"PROPHECY,"
ARGERANT?

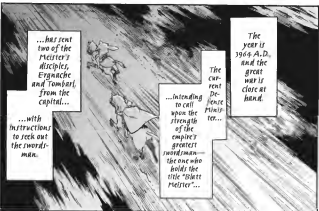
YES.



REPORT
TO ME AS
SOON AS
YOU KNOW
ANYTHING.



Side Story: Blatt Meister (Blade Master) Part 1



Side Story:
Blatt Meister (Blade Master)
Part 1









THAT
WOMAN
NEEDS TO
FISH THE
STICK OUT
OF HER
ASS!



THIS IS
OUR BEST
CHANCE TO
TRAIN UNDER
BLATT
MEISTER
LUDIFT.



HARASS-
ING THE
YOUNGER
ONES
AGAIN.

...PAH.
THOSE
PITIFUL
LESSER
NOBLES...



WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING IS
WRONG!

CUT IT
OUT.



?
WHAT'S
HE
DOING...?







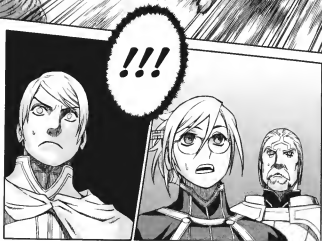


















Side Story:

Blatt Meister (Blade Master) Part 2



THAT BABY
WAS THIS
BOY...
ASCHERIT.

TWELVE
YEARS
AGO...

...A
BLACKSMITH
FRIEND OF
MINE LIVING
IN A
NORTHERN
MINING
VILLAGE,
KEINSRACH
...

...TOOK
IN AN
ABANDONED
BABY HE
FOUND
OUTSIDE OF
TOWN.



ONE DAY,
WHEN
ASCHERIT
WAS FIVE
YEARS
OLD.....



NO MATTER
WHAT HE
TRIED, THE
BLACKSMITH
COULD NOT
FORGE THE
ORE...



THE
BABY WAS
CLUTCHING
A PIECE
OF THAT
MYSTERIOUS,
IMPEN-
ETRABLE ORE
KNOWN AS
"FAIRYITE"

WHEN
MY
FRIEND
FOUND
HIM...

NOW HE HAS
INTERNALIZED
THE EIGHT
FORMS AFTER
SEEING
THEM ONLY
ONCE...

ALTHOUGH
HIS BODY
CANNOT YET
PERFORM THE
MOVEMENTS
FLAWLESSLY...

...HE IS
TALENTED.
A GENIUS,
EVEN.



...HE
PICKED UP
THE TOOLS
OF THE
FORGE,
MIMICKING
WHAT
HE HAD
OBSERVED...

...AND
PRODUCED
A SPLENDID
BLADE FROM
THAT VERY
CHUNK OF
FAIRYTITE!



...AND
GIVEN ME
SUCH
JOY IN MY
TWILIGHT
YEARS...

HELP-
ING
HIM
GROW
...

I VISIT THE
BOY AT THE
WORKSHOP
WHenever I
CAN, OFFERING
MY SUPPORT.

IT'S
ALMOST
FIVE YEARS
SINCE THE
BLACK-
SMITH
ASKED
ME...









YOU
SHOULD
DO THE
SAME.

TOM-
BARL!
I'M
LEAVING.



...TEACH
ME THAT
TECH-
NIQUE...!

FINE.
REFUSE
THE CALL
OF DUTY.
BUT AT
THE VERY
LEAST...



MEIS-
TER...



THE
TITLE OF
"BLATT
MEISTER"
...!!!

GIVE...
GIVE IT TO
ME...



!!









YOU'RE LUCKY, BOY...





VERY WELL, THEN...
I'LL FINISH OFF THIS DODDERING FOOL...







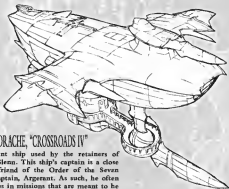




DRAGON AIRSHIP

Maschinendrache

An airship whose flight is powered by a drachestein. During the war with the Land of Shadows—Wischtech—mercenary forces and prominent lords filled the sky with the airships. After the war, however, nearly all were either stored away or dismantled entirely. In the current era, permission from the Imperial Minister of Dragon Affairs is necessary to construct, possess, or operate a maschinendrache for combat purposes.



MASCHINENDRACHE, "CROSSROADS IV"

A merchant ship used by the retainers of Marquis Glenn. This ship's captain is a close personal friend of the Order of the Seven Lances' captain, Argerant. As such, he often participates in missions that are meant to be kept secret from the general public.



A stone imbued with the power of levitation. Wild dragons habitually store these stones in their gullets, which in turn allows them to fly. Because of this, humans used to harvest the stones from the dragons, giving them the name "drachestein." In present times, however, the stones are mined directly from sources within the earth.

DRAGON
STONE
Drachestein

MARQUIS GLENN'S CREST

The crest worn by Marquis Glenn and his loyal followers in the Order of the Seven Lances.

Created for Glenn at the end of the great war, this crest doesn't have a very long history, but it is already one of the more well-known and easily-recognized crests among the people of the empire.



CRESTS

Sinnbild



A crest granted to generations of Blatt Meisters by the emperor. The previous Blatt Meister, Ludifi, returned the crest upon leaving the imperial capital. There is currently no successor to this crest.

It was once regarded with respect, but ever since Ascherlin, who was meant to be the next Blatt Meister, betrayed the empire, the people have viewed it as a bad omen.

BLACK WING & SWORD CREST



ORDER OF THE SEVEN SPEARS

Sieben Speeren Orden

A unit of warriors serving under Marquis Glenn, one of the Seven Heroes. Nowadays they are regarded less as an official unit of knights and more as Marquis Glenn's private army. It is said that they are the kingdom's strongest military force.

The unit was founded in 3988 A.D. when the current captain, Argerant, and a number of his followers called upon Marquis Glenn, whose domain had recently been relocated by the emperor. Glenn invited them into his employ.

There is no formal ranking system within the Order, but divisions do exist. There is the elite brigade that guards Marquis Glenn (about twenty members), the main brigade (about fifty members), and the knights-in-training (about eighty members). It is expected that once the unit receives official recognition from the imperial capital, these three divisions will remain largely intact and turned into formal ranks.

The Order's ranks have swelled as of late, thanks to an influx of young members who either look up to Marquis Glenn or the Order itself, whose noble actions in warring regions throughout the empire have won the hearts and minds of the people.

However, now that twenty years have passed since the end of the great war, there are many lords and ministers in the capital who feel uneasy about Marquis Glenn's quickly-expanding military force, especially considering that his own domain is so close to the capital and so far removed from Wishtech.

Libelblatt



G N A A H !!

*Deep in the Forest of Death at the edge of the Empire
3971 A.D. (Anno Domatio)*



WHY
WOULD
YOU...?

WHY
...?

AREN'T
WE.....

HUFF

HUFF

...SUP-
POSED
TO BE
COM-
RADES
...?!

A SECOND-
RATE
SWORDSMAN
LIKE GLENN
TOOK DOWN
THE EMPIRE'S
GREATEST
SWORDSMAN? IT'S
ALL OVER
NOW!!

GLENN
GOT HIS
EYE!

GYA-
HA-HA-
HA-HA!
WELL,
LOOKIT
THAT!



Durch Bruch
(Break Through)
◇I◇





IT'S
INCREDIBLE
THAT THE
FOUR OF
YOU...

...MANAGED
THIS AWFUL
BUSINESS
ALL ON
YOUR OWN.

YOU
FOUGHT
WELL.



...WILL BE
GOING TO THE
SEVEN OF US
INSTEAD.

BUT...
THE ACCO-
LADES...

Four
betrayed
the
emperor
and were
slain
for their
crime.

Three
perished
on the
journey.

...the
emperor
dispatched
fourteen
young
warriors
armed
with holy
lances.

In order to
stave off
an invasion
from the
inhabitants
of the
bordering
Witch-
tech...

THAT'S
JUST
THE
WAY IT
IS...

DO US
A KIND-
NESS...
AND DIE.



...of the
Seven Heroes'
era of glory.

That
moment...

...heralded the
beginning...









The Seven
Heroes
returned
trium-
phantly...

...In the
winter of
3972 A.D.



The great
deeds of the
Seven Heroes
brought
about an age
of unparalleled
peace and
prosperity.

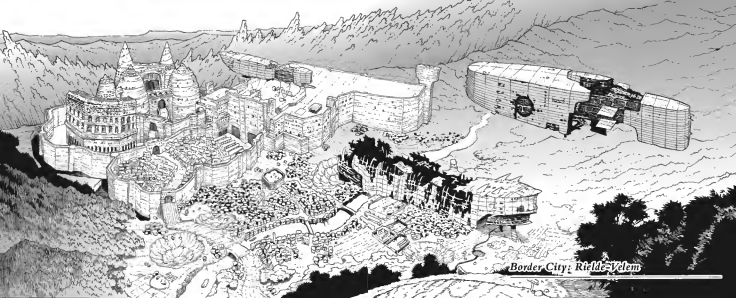
The weary
citizens of the
empire, and
the war-torn
earth itself,
breathed a
collective sigh
of relief.

The era of
seemingly
endless
war with
Wischtech
was over.

...however...

...an ill-
omened
shadow
has
begun to
stir.

...Even in
the twenty
years
of calm
since...









SO VERY
REGRET-
TABLE!!

REGRET-
TABLE...

SOUL
-STUNG!

SOUL



SO MIND
YOU KEEP
YOURSELVES
IN LINE!

TRAVEL
PASSES WILL
BE GRANTED
ONLY TO
THOSE DEEMED
"WORTHY"
BY THE
MONASTERY.



...WHAT'S
GOING
ON HERE,
KULPOO?

BROTHER
RA-
SCHER!



QUIT
YOUR
WHIN-
ING,
GIRL.

NOOOO!!



NOOO!
LEMMIE
GO!!

!





.....I'M
HER
BROTHER.



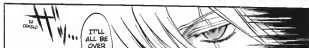
MAKE
PREPARATIONS
FOR A DOUBLE
EXECUTION!!



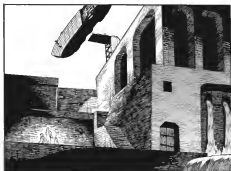
HMPH!!

YOU'RE
SIBLINGS?
REALLY?
YOU
LOOK
NOTHING
ALIKE.

WE HAVE
DIFFERENT
MOTHERS,
YOU SEE.



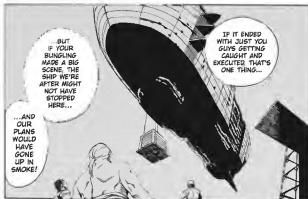




DON'T
MAKE ME
REPEAT
MYSELF!







...BUT
IF YOUR
BUNGLING
MADE A BIG
SCENE, THE
SHIP WE'RE
AFTER MIGHT
NOT HAVE
STOPPED
HERE...

...AND
OUR
PLANS
WOULD
HAVE
GONE
UP IN
SMOKE!

IF IT ENDED
WITH JUST YOU
GUYS GETTING
CAUGHT AND
EXECUTED, THAT'S
ONE THING...



I CALL
BRATS
LIKE YOU
"HERO
KIDS."

YOU'RE
TRYING TO
GET TO THE
OTHER SIDE
'COS YOU'RE
A FAN OF
THE SEVEN
HEROES,
RIGHT?



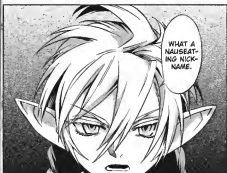
GOT IT,
*HERO
KID?*



HELL, YOU
OWE YOUR
WHOLE DAMN
PEACEFUL
EXISTENCE TO
THE DEEDS
OF THE
HEROES.

BESIDES
WHICH, IN
SPITE OF
BEING A
SHRIMP, YOU
GO AROUND
PLAYING
HERO...

"HERO
KID"? WHAT'S
THAT SUP-
POSED TO
MEAN?



WHAT A
NAUSEATING
NICK-
NAME.



WAIT.

GOOD
LUCK.

...ANYWAY,
IF YOU'RE
LOOKING TO
STAY ALIVE,
HEAD BACK
WHERE
YOU CAME
FROM.



JUST GO
HOME AND
TEND YOUR
FIELDS!

AND
WHY
SHOULD
I TELL
YOU?

WHERE
ARE
THEY?

YOU
MENTIONED
SMUGGLERS.

















COULD
HE
BE...?

NO...
THERE'S
NO WAY...

WH...

...WHAT
IS THIS
KID!?

CUT IN
TWO WITH
A SINGLE
BLOW!!

YOU DARE
TURN YOUR
SWORD
AGAINST THE
MONASTERY!?

EEEEED!



BUT
STILL...

TEAR
HIM TO
SHREDS
!!!

THERE'S
NO WAY
TO HAVE
TAKEN
HIM BY
SURPRISE
BACK AT
THE PORT.

IF THE
RUMORS
ARE
TRUE...
IF THIS
GUY WAS
HIM...



HOW IS
THIS KID SO
STUPIDLY
STRONG...!!!?













Durch Bruch
(Break Through)
• II •







WE'RE
NOT
RUNNING
A DAMN
FERRY
SERVICE
HERE!!

YOU
CAN'T
BE
SERI-
OUS!!



YOU
WANT ME
TO WAIVE
THE REST
OF YOUR
FEE?

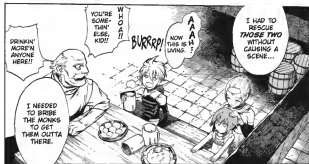


AND I
DIDN'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.

DON'T
BE
ASID:
A
BEAUTY
LIKE YOU
SHOULD
NEVER
FROWN.

WHICH
MEANS
WE'RE
RISKING
LIFE AND
LIMB...!

THEY'RE
CRACKING
DOWN
HARDER THAN
EVER THESE
DAYS.....



DRINKIN'
MORE'N
ANYONE
HERE!!

I NEEDED
TO BRIBE
THE MONKS
TO GET
THEM OUTTA
THERE.

YOU'RE
SOME-
THIN'
ELSE,
KID!!

W
H
O
A
!!

BURRRP!

NOW
THIS IS
LIVING.

A
A
H
!

I HAD TO
RESCUE
THOSE TWO
WITHOUT
CAUSING A
SCENE...





I'M
GOING IN
ALONE?

WHY?

THE
BOSS IS
WAITING
FOR YOU.

GET IN
THERE.



C'MERE,
KON-
ZELL.

I WANT
TO INTRO-
DUCE YOU
TO THE
BOSS.



TRY NOT
TO PISS
OFF THE
BOSS...
**GOOD
LUCK!!**

...I
DON'T
GET IT.



DOES IT
REALLY
MATTER
WHY?

ALL I
CAN SAY IS
THAT IF YOU
WANT TO BE
SMUGGLED OUT,
YOU GOTTA
MEET THE
BOSS ONE-
ON-ONE!!

**AAA-
ANY-
WAY
...!!**

I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT TH—









IF THAT'S TRUE
...

I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
TO REACH
THE OTHER
SIDE!



COME
ON...

IT'S NO
FUN IF
YOU'RE
BULKING.

SHUT
UP.
JUST
GET IT
OVER
WITH!



WITH
THAT
SORT
OF LAX
ATTI-
TUDE...

WHAT
A STUB-
BORN
KID.....



I'LL GET
THERE ON
MY OWN
SOMEHOW.



WE
SMUGGLERS
HAVE OUR
HANDS FULL.
SO DOES THE
MONASTERY.
IN THEIR
TIRELESS
EFFORTS TO
STOP US.

IN LIGHT OF
THIS, COUNTLESS
TRAVELERS ARE
MAKING A "SEVEN
HEROES PILGRIMAGE,"
AND SO ARE THE
MERCHANTS EAGER
TO MAKE A PROFIT
OFF OF THEM.

...FOR A
TWO-DAY
MEETING AT AN
ENCAMPMENT
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
THOUSAND
STONESPEARS.

...ALL
SEVEN
OF THE
HEROES
HAVE
AGREED TO
COME TO-
GETHER...

THE PEOPLE
ON THIS SIDE OF
THE BORDERLANDS
HAVE HAD THEIR
LIVES THROWN
INTO TURMOIL
BY CIVIL WAR.
IN AN EFFORT
TO RESTORE
ORDER...

THE SEVEN
HEROES...

...ARE
ALMOST
WITHIN
REACH...!!

I'D SAY
YOU
HAVE.....

YEAH.

HAVE I
SPARKED
YOUR
INTEREST?

...WILL BE
JUST OVER
THERE.....?

ALL
SEVEN
...

YOU
REALLY
DIDN'T
KNOW?

THAT'S
PUT THE
FIRE IN
YOUR
EYES.

HES
HES
...























**YOU
BASTARD...
DO YOU
REALIZE
WHAT
YOU'VE
DONE!?**

**OHHH
...?**

**WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE—**



**NOW...
...HOW
MANY
ARE
LEFT?**



**TO
REJECT
OUR
AUTHOR-
ITY...**

**...IS TO
DEFY THE
SEVEN
HEROES
THEM-
SELVES!!**



**WE'VE BEEN
ENTRUSTED
WITH THE
OPERATION
OF THIS CITY
BY ONE OF
THE SEVEN
HEROES,
LANDGRAVE
SCHEM-
WÖLECH!**



LIKE
I'VE
ALWAYS
DONE,
THEN.



Durch Bruch
(Break Through)
• III •



BROTHER
RASCHER
SPEAKS
FOR THEM
HERE, SO
OPPOSING
HM...

...CAN
ONLY BRING
ABOUT
A SLOW,
PAINFUL
DEATH FOR
YOU!

Y-YOU
BASTARD
...!!

THE
SEVEN
HEROES
HAVE
IMPERIAL
AUTHOR-
ITY OVER
ALL THE
LAND!!



HUH
!?
...UH...
UWWW...

ISN'T
THAT
RIGHT,
BROTHER
RASCHER
!?



HE'S MORE
THAN A
MATCH FOR
A BRAT
LIKE YOU!!

BROTHER
RASCHER WAS
A MILITARY
HERO IN THE
GREAT WAR
TWENTY
YEARS AGO!!













...ALTEA!!

WE WILL
MAKE IT
TO THE
OTHER
SIDE!!









NOW
THAT I'VE
SEALED
EVERY
ROUTE...

...IT'S
TIME TO
HUNT
DOWN
THE MICE
PROPERLY!!

HEH-
HEH-HEH...
WHAT DO
YOU SAY
TO THAT,
SMUG-
GLERS...?



YOUR
SERVICES
ARE
A TAD
EXPEN-
SIVE...

MMM...
WELL...

AIN'T IT
ABOUT TIME
YOU ASKED
FOR MY
HELP?

THEY
GOT YOU
IN A PANIC,
OLD MAN
RASCHER.



OH, IT'S
YOU!! AM
I EVER
GLAD
TO SEE
YOU!!

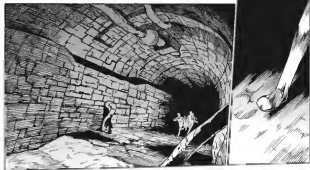
.....DON'T
BOTHR
GOIN' BACK
THEY'LL
BE LONG
GONE



NNGH
...

MAYBE
MY FEE
AIN'T
REALLY
THAT
HIGH?

THINK
ABOUT WHAT
IT'LL COST
IF YOU FAIL
AND THE MICE
ESCAPE.















JUST LIKE
THREE
YEARS
AGO...

DAMN,
HE'S
STILL
HERE
...!!

H-HE'S
THE KING
OF THESE
TUNNELS!!

KATA
OUBAKU
+ +
KATA
+ +
+ +



WH-WHAT
THE HELL
IS THAT?!



EKK
!!



THERE A
YUMMY-
LOOKING
LADY...

OHO
!?



ALTEA!!
LOOK
OUT!!

AHI



IT
WON'T
BE LIKE
THREE
YEARS
AGO...

IT
WON'T
BE LIKE
BACK
THEN...

IT'LL BE
OKAY!! THIS
KID WE'RE
WITH IS
STRONG!

KATA
+ +
KATA
+ +
+ +

KATA
+ +
KATA
+ +
+ +













**Durch Bruch
(Break Through)**

◆ IV ◆

WH-
WH-
WH...!

GYA-
AAA-
AAA-
AAH
!!!?

WHAT
IS
THAT
!!!?





WHO'S
THIS
SCARY
GIANT!?

WHAT!?
WHAT!?
WHERE
ARE
WE!?



OH
HO
HO.

LOTS
ENERGY.
LOOK
YUMMY.



WHERE'D
KÖINZELL
GO!?



WHERE
IS
KÖIN-
ZELL?





APEE-
GYAA-
AAA-
AAAH
!!!



NO MORE
YUCKIES...

YUCKY...



...WANT
EAT SOFT,
JIGGLY
WOMAN!

SOME-
TIME...























I'VE
CRACKED
HIM!

LOOKS LIKE
HE'S WEAK
WHERE
KUNZELL
HIT HIM....!!

GYAAAH!





















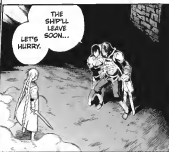
THE
MOONS

...ARE SO
LOVELY
TONIGHT.



NYAA-
GYAA-
AAAA-
ARRR-
RGH!!!











DAMMIT

THAT
SWORD
.....!!



TCH...



...THAT
WE HAVE
BEEN ABLE
TO ANTICI-
PATE ALL
OF YOUR
ACTIONS
THUS FAR!!

IT IS
THANKS
TO HIM.....



...BUT WE
SET HIS
FEET ON THE
STRAIGHT
AND NARROW
PATH.

THIS
POOR SOUL
WAS ONCE
LIKE YOU
SCUM...



...BUT YOU
OUGHT TO BE
ASHAMED!
HOW DARE YOU
SELL OUT YOUR
OWN KIND!?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE...



A
FORMER
SNAIG-
GLER
.....?!



YOU WOULD
BE WISE TO
FOLLOW HIS
EXAMPLE
AND REFORM
YOURSELVES!!

YOU, THE
FAITHLESS
ONES WHO
WOULD
SNATCH AWAY
MONEY MEANT
FOR THE
MONASTERY...

WHAT
FOOL-
ISH-
NESS!!

...ARE THE
ONES WHO
SHOULD BE
ASHAMED!!



ENOUGH
OF THIS
POINTLESS
PRATTLE.

NOW,
THEN.



WHY,
YOU....!!











KOIN-ZELL
.....



NO, HE'S NOT HURT ...



KOIN-ZELL
.....!



IT'S.....

IT'S CRYING. IT'S HURTING.....

YOU CAN'T HEAR IT?



VOICE ?



THERE'S A FAIRY SEALED IN IT, AND SHE'S SCREAMING IN PAIN.



THAT SWORD...



IT'S
REALLY
THE FAIRY'S
CRY RIPPING
APART
WHATEVER
HE SWINGS
AT...!!

THAT
ATTACK
...



REAP
WHAT
YOU
SOW,
YOU
FILTHY
SMUG-
GLERS!!

NOW
!!

NN
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH!

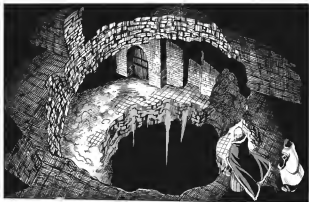


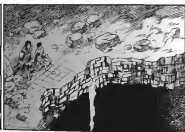




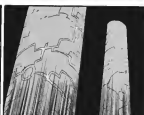
















A PLACE
GUARDED
BY MY
STRONGEST
MEN:

**THE HOLY
GUARDIAN
BROTHER-
HOOD!!!**

...IS THE
DEEPEST
PART OF THE
MONASTERY
ITSELF!!!

THIS PLACE,
IN WHICH
I HAVE SO
CLEVERLY
CORNERED
YOU...





THE
RITUAL IS
COMPLETE!!

IT IS
TIME
FOR YOU
TO GO,
ASCHER-
IIT!

I CAN
HANDLE
THIS ON
MY OWN.



BUT...



NOW
LEAVE.

REJOIN THE
OTHERS AND
CARRY OUT
THE MISSION,
ASCHER-IIT!!

DO NOT
WEEP...

THAT
ISN'T AN
EXPRESSION
BEFITTING
THE EMPIRE'S
GREATEST
SWORDS-
MAN.





NOW,
MY ELITE
WARRIORS
!!

FORM UP
AND CUT
HIM TO
PIECES!!

LET'S
GIVE HIM AN
EXTRAVAGANT
SEND-OFF—
A PARTING
GIFT TO MARK
THE END OF HIS
PITIFULLY
SHORT LIFE...



Durch Bruch
(Break Through)
◇VI◇

















HOW DID
HE MOVE
LIKE THAT
...?

THIS IS NO
ORDINARY
KID.....!!

CHIEF!!
JUST
WHO IS
THIS
BRAT!?



MAKES
SENSE.

I SUPPOSE
YOU'D NEED
SOME MARGIN
OF SKILL TO
BE CALLED
"ELITES."



TCH...

OR IS
THE ELITE
KOMMANDO
AFRAID OF
ONE LITTLE
BOY?



CHARGE!!!

DON'T
HOLD
BACK!
HE'S NO
MERE
CHILD!



I...
I THOUGHT
YOU FELLOWS
MIGHT BE
BORED, SO
I BROUGHT
A PLAYMATE
FOR YOU...

REGARD-
LESS!
HURRY
UP AND
DESTROY
HIM FOR
ME!!

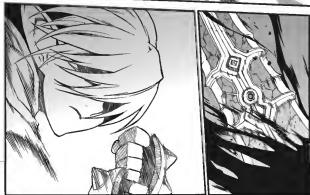
















**HOW
!!!?**



**HOW
WOULD
YOU KNOW
ABOUT A
TRAP HERE
THAT EVEN
I WAS
UNAWARE
OF?**

**HOW
DID YOU
...?**

**BUT...
HOW...?**



YES...

**AND
THERE'S
SOMETHING
VERRRY
INTERESTING
BEYOND THAT
DOOR.....**

!!!



**I ONCE
PASSED
THROUGH
HERE A
LONG TIME
AGO.**

**I KNOW
THIS
PLACE
WELL.**



WHO'S THAT?
WHAT'S THAT
RACKET...?





WHO ARE
YOU...?

THIS
PLACE...

ONLY THE
HIGHEST-
RANKING
BROTHERS
ARE
PERMITTED
TO ENTER
THIS
SPACE.

IT IS OUR
HOLIEST
GROUND.



HEY!

NOT EVEN
THE SEVEN
HEROES
THEM-
SELVES...

...ARE
ALLOWED
TO SET
FOOT HERE
WITHOUT
PERMIS-
SION...



THIS IS
AN ALTAR
TO SAINT
ERGNACH,
ATTENDANT
TO THE
SEVEN
HEROES.

LISTEN
HERE,
BOY...

...CREATED
THE THOUSAND
STONESPEARS
WITH A MAGIC
RITUAL, AND—

...ERGNACH,
WHO ARRIVED
HERE WITH
THE SEVEN
HEROES...

...IN THEIR
EFFORTS
TO COUNTER
A MASSIVE
OFFENSIVE
FROM WISCH-
TECH...

TWENTY-
THREE
YEARS
AGO...



**SHUT
UP!!!**



DO YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME,
BRGNACH?



....AND THEY
CALL YOU AN
"ATTENDANT"
TO THOSE
SEVEN.

**WHAT
A BAD
JOKE!!**

.....HEAR
THAT,
BRGNACH?

YOU
GAVE YOUR
LIFE TO
PERFORM
THIS
RITUAL....



...AND
I LOOK
DIFFERENT
THAN I
DID BACK
THEN.....

I KNOW
IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE...



BUT...

...I'VE
FINALLY
RETURNED.



I...
...JUST
SOME
WOULD-
BE
STOW-
AWAY,
ABBOT...

RASCHEB,
WHO IS
THAT BOY?!



AH...
I'M SO
SORRY,
I...

THIS SORT
OF FAILURE IS
QUITE OUT OF
CHARACTER,
RASCHEB.

.....

ANOTHER
ONE OF
THOSE
"HERO
KIDS," I
SUSPECT
.....

HE'S
TRYING
TO REACH
THE SEVEN
HEROES'
ENCAMPMENT
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE...



THAT'S
...!

YOU
AREN'T
ALLOWED
OVER
THERE!

SEE
HERE,
BOY!



!!





...I SAW THE
YOUNG
VALIANT
SEVEN
HEROES
WITH MY
OWN
EYES.

...ON
THIS VERY
GROUND—
THEN A
BATTLE-
FIELD...

TWENTY-
THREE
YEARS
AGO...



NOW YOU
LISTEN TO
ME, HERO
KID...



.....



THE
ABBOT,
IN HIS
ABUNDANT
BENEVO-
LENCE,
IS
SPEAKING
TO YOU!

HEY!
ARE
YOU
LISTEN-
ING,
BOY!?



ALONG
WITH SEVEN
COMPANIONS,
THEY MADE
FOR THE
FOREST OF
DEATH...

THE SEVEN
HEROES WERE
DISPATCHED
BY HIS
MAJESTY THE
EMPEROR.



...WERE
THOSE
INFAMOUS
TRAITORS,
THE DREADFUL
"TRAITOROUS
LANCES."

SADLY,
AMONG
THEM...

ALTHOUGH
PART OF THE
ORIGINAL PARTY,
THOSE FOUR
SIDED WITH
WISCHTECH AND
WERE SLAIN BY
THE HEROES
FOR THEIR
CRIME.....



THEY PUT
THEIR LIVES
ON THE LINE
TO PERFORM
A RITUAL THAT
WOULD ERECT
A MASSIVE
WALL!!

THE SEVEN
HEROES, SENSING
THAT WISCHTECH
WOULD LAUNCH AN
INVASION HERE,
COULD NOT LEAVE
THIS PLACE TO THE
MERCY OF INVADING
FORCES!!

BUT I
DIGRESS
!!



YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS,
ERG-
NACH!!!



TAKING A
RISK LIKE
THIS IS.....



IT'S LIKE
GLENN
SAYS!!



WE'VE NO TIME
ABOUT SOME
WORTHLESS
SLIM. WE
MUST PRESS
ONWARD!!



O-OUR
TASK IS TO
CARRY OUT THE
MISSION GIVEN
TO US BY HIS
MAJESTY...



DON'T
WORRY,
SCHTEM-
WOLECH.

WE'LL CATCH
UP TO YOU
GUYS SOON
ENOUGH.

...WE
MADE A
PROMISE,
AFTER
ALL...



A
S
C
H
E
R
I
T
!!



THE REST
OF YOU
SHOULD
MOVE ON.



...ERGNACH
AND I WILL
TAKE CARE
OF IT.



THE
FOURTEEN
OF US...
...WILL
FULFILL
THIS
MISSION.

WE WILL
SURVIVE,
AND
TOGETHER,
WE WILL...



...THE
THOUSAND
STONESPEARS
APPEARED
.....!!!

AND
THAT
WAS
WHEN
...



BUT
WHEN I
WITNESSED
THE
MAJESTY
OF THAT
SPECTA-
CLE...

...I SAW
IN IT THE
TRUTH
OF ALL
THINGS...!!

I WAS
A SIMPLE,
LOWLY
MERCHANT
AT THE
TIME...



AS
SUCH...

MY
ACTIONS
WERE PRAISED
THROUGHOUT
THE REGION,
AND I WAS
AWARDED
CONTROL OF
THIS BORDER...

...BY NONE
OTHER THAN
LANDGRAVE
SCHTEM-
WÖLECH,
ONE OF
THE SEVEN
HEROES.



I FOUNDED
THIS
MONASTERY
SO THAT I
MIGHT SPREAD
THIS TRUTH
TO THE
MASSSES...

...AND
HAVE SINCE
PROTECTED
THIS
HOLIEST OF
HOLY RITUAL
SITES...



SO
SCHTEM-
WÖLECH...
IS A
LAND-
GRAVE...

HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH
.....



!?



HA...



...AFTER
HAVING
BEEN
AWAY FOR
TWENTY
YEARS...

WHEN
I FIRST
HEARD
OF IT...

THAT OUR
SCHTEM-
WOLECH
WOULD
BECOME
A LAND-
GRAVE?

EH,
BRG-
NACH?

PRETTY
FUNNY,
ISN'T
IT...?



...I
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
LAUGH...



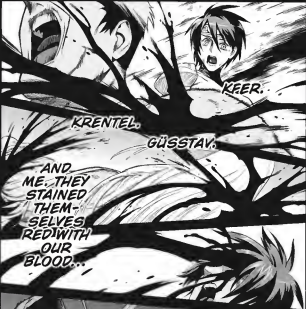
HE WAS
ECSTATIC.

"C'N YOU
BELIEVE IT?
A MOUNTAIN
BANDIT LIKE
ME SENT ON
A MISSION BY
THE EMPEROR
HIMSELF?"

I STILL
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
SAID WHEN
WE SET
OUT.

I BET
HE WAS
THRILLED
...





KEER.

KRENTEL.

GÜSSTAV.

AND
ME. THEY
STAINED
THEM-
SELVES
RED WITH
OUR
BLOOD...

AND...



...THEY
LAUGHED
LIKE MEN
GONE
MAD...!!







...TO
GRANT ME
PASSAGE
...

...NOW
I MUST
ASK
YOU...



WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
PLANNING,
BOY...!?



NOW
!!

YES!!

UM,
BUT...MY
RETAINERS
ALL SEEM
TO HAVE
BEEN—

RA-
SCHEB!!
STOP
THAT
BOY AT
ONCE!!



HE
WOULD
NEVER
...



**RASCHEB,
YOU WORM!
I TOLD YOU
TO KILL
THAT VILE
BRAT THIS
INSTANT!!!**

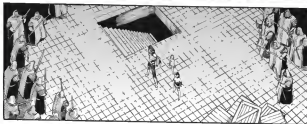


**I ORDER YOU
TO DO WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO STOP
HIM! WHY CAN'T
YOU MANAGE
EVEN THAT, YOU
HALF-WIT!! YOU
WRETCHED—**

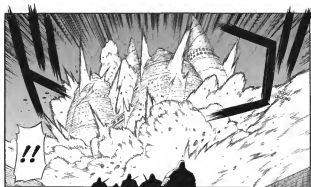




















Durch Bruch
(Break Through)
• VIII •







EVERY
TIME IT IS
RECLAIMED
BY ONE
SIDE OR THE
OTHER...

...THE
NUMBER
OF MAGICAL
TRAPS
WITHIN IN-
CREASES.

WE'VE
BATTLED WITH
NISCHTECH
OVER THIS
UNDERGROUND
FORTRESS
COUNTLESS
TIMES.



KEEP THE
ENEMY
AT BAY?

GOT
IT.

PRE-
PARING
FOR THE
RITUAL
WILL
TAKE A
WHILE.

IN THE
MEAN-
TIME—



...WE CAN
CREATE A
WILL THAT
WILL HALT
THE ENEMY'S
ADVANCE...

BY
ACTIVAT-
ING THAT
SOURCE...



THE POWER
SOURCE FOR
ALL OF THEM
LIES AT THE
DEEPEST
PART OF THE
BASE.



...YOU CAN
REJOIN THE
OTHERS.

IF YOU
ARE ABLE
TO MAKE
YOUR
WAY BACK
OUT...



REMEMBER
THIS
ROUTE WELL,
NISCHERIT.



...IT IS
LIKELY THAT
I WILL BE
BOUND TO
THIS SPOT.

SHOULD
I SUCCEED
HERE...



I'LL...



I'M
SORRY
THAT WE
CANNOT
CARRY ON
TOGETHER...





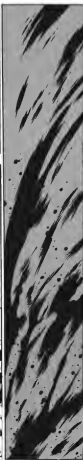
BUT
NOW...

.....I'M
SORRY...
ERGNACH
...



...GLENN
AND THE
OTHERS...

...I
MUST
GO AND
KILL...







HURRY
UP AND
HELP ME
OUT.....



HEY...
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
JUST
STANDING
THERE
...?



LOOK
OVER
THERE!
IT'S RA-
SCHEB!!



HUFF!

THE GRAND
PRIEST WAS
DIED, SO IT'S
ONLY NATURAL
THAT CONTROL
OF THE
MONASTERY
FALLS TO
ME.

YOU
CAN ONLY
GAIN BY
HELPING
ME...!

HUFF!

HUFF!



EEE!!!



AAAH!!

ZA
TUSNO



JUST
NAME
YOUR
PRICE!!

COME
NOW...
PLEASE!!

IF IT'S
MONEY
YOU
WANT,
FINE!!



...LOOKS LIKE
I'M GONNA
NEED A NEW
EMPLOYER...

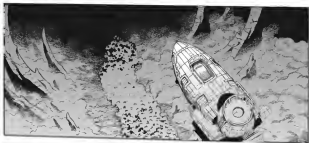
WELL...

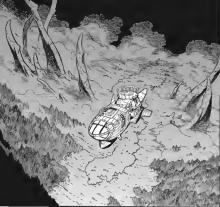


EEK!!!

RRRAH!!









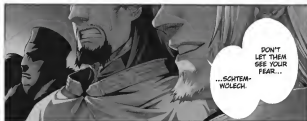
















BORDER CITY RIELDE-VELEM

A city that lies directly on the border between Mollan—the easternmost landgraves of the Seven Heroes' domains (collectively known as Haldenstrasse)—and the margravate of Gornbark.

The underground fortress was originally constructed by Wischtech during the war, but it was captured and retaken from the forces of the empire several times throughout the fighting.

Each subsequent capture and withdrawal brought on the construction of additional rooms, passages, and traps, turning it into a complex and deadly piece of architecture.

In 3969 A.D., Ergnash—military strategist and disciple of Blott Meister Ludifi—created the Thousand Stonepears, halting the impending invasion from Wischtech.

After the great war, Rielde-Velem developed into a full-fledged border city, partly in thanks to the monastery.

The underground was initially sealed off once the fighting ended, but people from the borderlands began moving in on their own and eventually established an independent society in the space beneath the city proper.



- ① Thousand Stonepears
- ② Monastery
- ③ Maschindroche Port
- ④ Underground City (formerly the underground fortress)



MONASTERY

After witnessing the birth of the Thousand Stonepears and thinking himself awakened to the truth of all things, a certain merchant founded the monastery and began attracting followers in 3970 A.D.

He was given control of the border by Landgrave Schtemwisch in 3979 A.D., at which point he began strengthening his organization of warrior monks and expanding development of the city itself.

The monastery gained untold financial and political influence through the border tax it collected, but in 3992 A.D. it was completely annihilated along with the Thousand Stonepears.

Translation Notes

Title:

Übel Blatt translates to "evil/sinister blade" in German.

Page 20:

The original Japanese designates this world's calendar literally as "the year of the sacred gift," referring to the point in time when the gods granted Szaalenden to the people in year zero. Our own A.D. stands for *anno domini* ("the year of our Lord"), but in *Übel Blatt* the "D" stands for *donatus*, or "gift" in Latin, to reflect the gods' giving of Szaalenden.

Page 80:

The Japanese characters used for *Mondsbürge* ("moon castles" in German) translate literally as "Moon Reading Palace." This fits with the astral prognosticating that is apparently performed there.

Page 100:

The German term that Güstav uses, *Heck Elfe*, as well as the characters used to spell it out in the Japanese edition, means "High Elf." The distinction between "fairy" and "elf" is not made—the broad term used in Japanese (*yasui*) covers both.

Page 109:

Blatt Meister translates to Blade Master in German.

Liljet Blott

ÜBEL BLATT ①

Etorouji Shiono

Translation: Caleb D. Cook • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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